



## GREENSBORO URBAN AREA Technical Coordinating Committee

### TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

**Minutes of December 11, 2001  
1:55 p.m. Greensboro, NC  
Plaza Level Conference Room  
Melvin Municipal Office Building**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Tyler Meyer	GDOT	Ron Wilson	Starmount Company
Butch Simmons	Engineering & Inspections	Libby James	GTA
Adam Fischer	GDOT	Brad Wall	NCDOT Division 7
Frank Wyatt	Engineering & Inspections	Mark Kirstner	Guilford County Planning
Scott Walston	NCDOT Statewide	Pat Strong	FHWA NC Division
Scott Rhine	PART	J.D. Ayers	Town of Pleasant Garden
Craig McKinney	GDOT		

Tyler Meyer advised the Committee that he would be presiding as the acting TCC Chair because Jim Westmoreland had an engagement with Leadership Greensboro.

#### **Action Items**

##### **Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2001**

Libby James moved for the approval of the November 14, 2001 minutes. Frank Wyatt seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**MTIP Amendment: NC 68 Widening**

Tyler Meyer informed the Committee that this project involves widening NC 68 between south of Gallimore Dairy Road to north of Triad Center Drive. The project is jointly funded, with the NCDOT paying the majority of the share. This project is included in the Long Range Transportation Plan. The TAC endorsed it on August 29, 2001. The recommended action is for the TAC to approve that the amendment be added to the current Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. The start date for this project is early 2002 and the open-to-traffic date would be later that year. Brad Wall advised the Committee that the project speaks well of the partnership between the DOT and the City of Greensboro.

**MPO Priority Needs List**

These items were discussed at the last meeting, and at a TCC work session. The list contained in the *System Priorities* handout conveys to the State the areas of priority for the next TIP, spanning 2004 to 2010. That document will go into effect in October 1, 2003.

Libby James highlighted for the Committee some achievements that GTA has made in support of the priority needs. She informed the Committee that GTA has gone from 36,000 riders per week to 43,000 riders per week, which represents an increase of 16% for all services. That growth is caused by services that have been expanded. She also stated that in January of 2001, GTA expanded the fixed route service and made it more efficient and more effective. There also has been a 4% increase in riders of the specialized transportation service.

She also informed the Committee that GTA is looking to replace vehicles in both the bus fleet and van fleet. Ten additional buses and ten additional vans need to be replaced.

She also stated that one of the major projects for transportation is the Multi-Modal Transportation Center. Relocation of the passenger train offices, which has been identified as a priority need, will be facilitated by Phase II of the transportation center renovation process.

She advised that the GTA transit facility located at 320 East Friendly Avenue, which houses City staff, requires expansion of the storage and bus parking area. Because this expansion has been identified as a priority need, GTA is considering purchasing property at the corner of Market and Friendly.

She also informed the Committee that GTA is considering upgrading the fare collection equipment. They are upgrading in order to utilize smart card technology, which will allow passengers to increase the value of their pass cards. This technology will make the system more user-friendly, advancing another priority need.

She advised that GTA is considering retrofitting the bus stops with lighting, which allows for better visibility for drivers and passengers.

Tyler Meyer then reviewed the highway program priorities as described in the *System Priorities* handout prepared for the meeting. He then reported on the MPO priority needs public meeting. The opportunity for people to make comments on transportation needs in the area extended from October to November. A meeting was held at the Central Library on November 29 to review draft needs, make comments and ask questions. There were 17 attendees at the meeting with six people submitting comments. All comments were reviewed and responses given, as described in the *Public Comment Summary and Responses* handout prepared for the meeting. Tyler Meyer advised that the priority needs list would need to be approved by the TAC to forward on to the NCDOT.

Scott Rhine asked what alternative plans were being made for funding transit needs if funds are not received. Libby James stated that the DA status be official no sooner than 2003, and no later than 2004. She also advised that the alternative funding sources may be in the bond project and would be funded with bond funds. She also advised that the allocation received this year will purchase the 10 buses needed.

Tyler Meyer asked for a motion to recommend that TAC approve the priority needs. Scott Rhine moved for the approval of the priority needs. Libby James seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **Prospectus for Transportation Planning**

Tyler Meyer advised the Committee that the function of the prospectus is to define the work tasks that are funded through the Planning Work Program. It narrows down the length of the PWP. There is a prospectus for each of the MPOs in the state. GUAMPO's current prospectus was prepared in 1993 and is in need of revision. This revision would include planning for conformity and clarify various definitions and tasks.

Tyler Meyer asked for a motion to recommend approval of the prospectus. Frank Wyatt moved for the approval of the prospectus. Scott Rhine seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

### **Business Items**

#### **Proposed Thoroughfare Plan Amendment**

The MPO received a request to modify the Thoroughfare Plan element of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The request, which was submitted by the Starmount Company, proposed thoroughfare system changes to accommodate the Villages at Reedy Fork development. This large-scale, integrated development will cover approximately 1,800 acres and will include housing, commercial, office, light industrial, recreational, and school uses. Additionally, the thoroughfare plan changes provide for a parallel route to U.S. 29 via Summit Avenue to U.S. 150 and provide improved connections to the wider area. The request was reviewed in detail and modifications were identified. Craig McKinney informed the Committee about the other changes to the Thoroughfare Plan that were requested. These changes are reflected in the *System Priorities* handout.

Tyler Meyer advised the Committee that the amendments would be taken before public review and consultations with affected agencies. At the next meeting, a summary of the findings will be presented.

Ron Wilson inquired about the Brown Summit approval. Mr. Meyer advised that Brown Summit would become a separate interchange.

### **Upcoming Planning Items & Early 2002 Schedule**

Tyler Meyer advised the Committee that a TCC work session would be scheduled to discuss the planning program update. Meetings are currently scheduled for January and February; however, the January meeting will be cancelled. Those items that would be discussed in January will be discussed at the February meeting. Updated notices of the meeting schedule will be sent out.

He also updated the Committee on the bike map for the MPO area. There is currently a bicycle route system that the City of Greensboro prepared. Craig McKinney advised the Committee that a group of bicyclists in the MPO area met with staff to develop a system of assigned bike routes. As it stands right now, the staff is waiting for the bicyclists to return maps, which will be marked with the favorite and safest riding routes. Once those are reviewed, they will be combined and used to identify possible routes throughout the county. There are particular points that need to be connected which includes points in High Point, Forsyth County, Burlington and Randolph County.

### **Other Items**

#### **TCC Member Update**

Scott Walston briefed the Committee concerning the Airport Area Studies. He is working on the RFP for that, and a meeting will be held next month to try to finalize that study.

Scott Rhine informed the Committee concerning the Airport Area Access Study. He feels this will be a good project for this region because it is a partnership involving the MPO, the NC DOT and the Airport Authority. This project will be moving forward very rapidly due to the development on Highway 68 and the surrounding areas.

Tyler Meyer noted that the scope update that Scott Walston is working on that will look at those proposed routes and transportation needs in more detail.

Libby James informed the Committee that the city would be undertaking its first Long Range Public Transportation Study. This will be a ten to twenty year plan. The city will report to the TCC and TAC, as this process envisions future conditions in the city.

The TCC adjourned at 2:50 p.m.